

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

This or That / Week 2

“Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.”

Psalm 147:5 NIV

DAY 1

We’ve all dealt with comparison before, and we’ll all deal with it again! That’s why it’s important to think about how we want to respond. If we allow ourselves to let the lies of comparison speak louder than the truth of God, the power of comparison wins. But if we lean instead on God’s power—if we believe His words about who we are—we’ll find the strength to overcome those lies. This week, write down a few things you love about how God made you. Ask a family member, close friend, or Small Group Leader for help. Come back to those things and celebrate them when you feel tempted to compare, letting the power of who God made you to be win over the lies of comparison.

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!”

1 John 3:1a NLT

DAY 2

Have you ever thought about the way God sees you? Have you ever wondered who you are in His eyes? All of us have at some point! The good news is we don’t have to wonder long. God makes no secret of the way He feels about us. He not only tells us that He loves us, but that He calls us His children. We belong to Him. We are His. What a powerful truth to remember, knowing that because we are His, we will always measure up. Spend some time in prayer today, thanking God for letting you know how He sees you and how much He loves you.

“Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”

Psalm 100:3 NIV

DAY 3

Take a look outside your window. God made each and every thing you see. Every blade of grass, every drop of rain, every tree growing tall, every flower in bloom, every person walking by on the sidewalk—every detail is a part of His creation. And just as He created and knows each one of those things, He created and knows you. In fact, He loves you, because you are His. You don’t have to let the way you compare to others define you; instead, you can be defined by God as His creation. Take time this week to get outside. Let the beauty you see in the world around you remind you of the beauty God put in you, too!

<p><i>“But, let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”</i></p> <p><i>2 Corinthians 10:17 NIV</i></p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>When we believe that all we have is from God—achievements and abilities included—it changes the way we see the good things in our lives. Rather than celebrating what we have, we celebrate the One who gives it to us. And rather than focusing on what we don’t have, we appreciate the God who gives us all good things. That’s something to celebrate! This week, as you find yourself tempted to compare or complain, try instead to celebrate. Celebrate what God has given you and even what you see that He’s given others around you. Talk about this with a close friend or Small Group Leader, encouraging each other to celebrate all you have because of God.</p>
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<p><i>“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”</i></p> <p><i>1 Peter 2:9 NIV</i></p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Nothing can compare to the way God sees us. Everything we see in others and want for ourselves—every quality, every trait, every talent—none is as great as what God has already given us. He’s created us uniquely—special in our own way just the way we are. And when we know and believe who we are in Him, we don’t need to look elsewhere to try and measure up. He has not only told us who we are in Him, but also that it’s more than enough. Ask God to help you see yourself the way He sees you and celebrate the fact that in Him, you will always measure up.</p>
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<p><i>“And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.”</i></p> <p><i>Colossians 3:17 NLT</i></p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>So many of us work hard to become something, achieve something, or even change something about ourselves because we’re comparing who we are and where we are to someone else around us. And though working hard to achieve a goal or see a change in your life isn’t bad, it isn’t helpful when you’re doing it because of comparison. As this verse reminds us, the best motivation for positive things in our lives is God. If we make Him the reason for all we do—if we turn from comparison and choose God as our influence instead—we’ll find peace not just in where we’re going, but where we are. Pray that God would show you places in your life where you are working for others, not Him.</p>
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<p><i>“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”</i></p> <p><i>Proverbs 4:23 NIV</i></p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Find a creative way to commit this verse to memory this week! Put it to a song, create movements to go with each word, draw it in a unique way, or even come up with a contest to see who can memorize it first in your Small Group! Whatever you do, remember that your goal is to be able to remember this verse so that you have it there in your heart to remind you of what’s true!</p>
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